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Education
Finance
Rules
Transportation

2006 SESSION PRIORITIES

REP. DAN ROACH
REP. JAN SHABRO

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

February 2006

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2006 Legislative session is nearing the midway point and the pace is fast and intense. As in all even-numbered years, this year's session is scheduled to last 60 days.

This session, the Legislature's main responsibility is to adopt a supplemental budget which is usually limited to fine-tuning issues like school enrollment growth, and emergency needs. As always, we will work to ensure the Legislature handles taxpayers' dollars sensibly.

We are also working closely with our House and Senate Republican colleagues to pass elements of our joint agenda – the Republican Commitment to Washington. This 11-point plan came from the input we received from citizens during a series of town meetings held in communities around the state. The public's involvement resulted in specific legislation being drafted to address the issues people told us were most important to them.

Our agenda includes bills to crack down on sex offenders, identity and auto thieves, and meth manufacturers. We're also working to protect family farms, help families with energy costs and affordable health care, stimulate job growth, ensure students meet the standards required for graduation and future success and, put government on a budget by restoring voter approved tax and spending limits.

This newsletter will provide you with information on these and other issues we are working on this session. It also includes important contact information so that you may reach us in Olympia.

Remember, we are here to represent your views. We look forward to hearing from you on the issues that are of concern to you. Please feel free to contact us at any of our contact numbers or via email.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dan Roach

Rep. Jan Shabro



TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000

TDD (HEARING IMPAIRED): 1-800-635-9993

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET:

[HTTP://WWW.LEG.WA.GOV](http://www.leg.wa.gov) OR [HTTP://HRC.LEG.WA.GOV](http://hrc.leg.wa.gov)

2006 SESSION PRIORITIES

REP. DAN ROACH • REP. JAN SHABRO

KEEP GOVERNMENT FROM OVERSPENDING

Washington's economy improved in 2005, thanks to strong real estate and construction activity, which meant more money coming into the state treasury through taxes and fees. That money is tempting to the big-government fans in the Legislature, and the governor has set the stage for a spending spree with her supplemental budget plan.

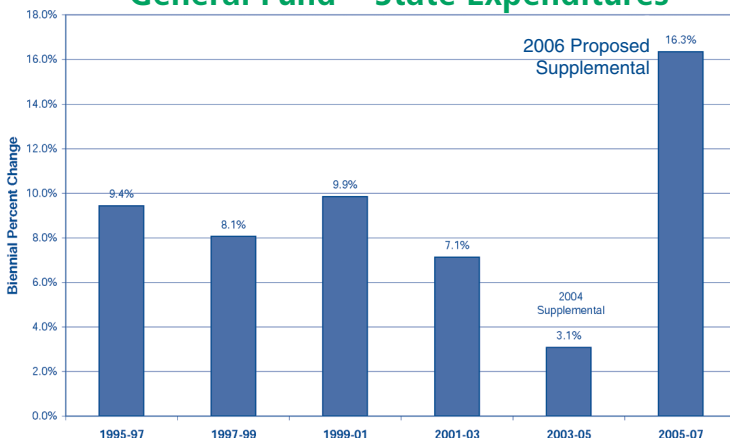


The majority party and the governor tapped employers and families hard in 2005, imposing more than \$400 million in tax increases to support a 12 percent hike in spending. Unemployment insurance system reforms were rolled back, plus the New Year brought another increase in the minimum wage (Washington's is the nation's highest) and higher workers' compensation premiums for many businesses. The majority party also got rid of the voter approved spending limit in favor of a formula that allows much higher spending.

To ensure Washington's economy gets the boost it needs to create and maintain jobs the Legislature must:

- Revive the voter-approved spending limit and return to the "Priorities of Government" approach that produced a sustainable budget in 2003;
- Repeal the tax increases adopted in 2005: the liquor and cigarette tax increases that hurt retailers and the death tax that is just plain insulting to people who have worked hard to leave something to their children; and
- Ease the tax burdens and reforming the state-run insurance systems that raise the cost of labor; and
- Amend the state constitution to require a rainy day/emergency fund of a percentage of General Fund money deposited that may only be accessed under very limited circumstances.

General Fund – State Expenditures



Mark Lunsford, father of Jessica Lunsford, traveled to Olympia to testify in support of Rep. Shabro's bill to toughen penalties for sex offenders. House Bill 2476, titled "Jessica's Law Plus," was named to honor Mr. Lunsford's daughter. Jessica was kidnapped, brutally raped and murdered by an unregistered sex offender living near his Florida home.



PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEX PREDATORS

There is no greater responsibility than protecting our children from danger. Recently the news has been filled with stories of heinous crimes against children that could have been prevented had the sex offender been put behind bars after the first or even second offense. It's time to put a stop putting the rights of sex offenders before the rights of victims.

Both Rep. Roach and Rep. Shabro are introducing legislation to toughen the laws against sex offenders and keep them from destroying more lives.



Rep. Shabro is sponsoring House Bill 2476, which is being called "Jessica's Law Plus" because it goes further to protect children than the Florida law for which it is modeled. Jessica's Law is named for a 9-year-old Florida girl, Jessica Lunsford, who was murdered by a sex offender in February 2005. It calls for penalties ranging from 30 years to life in prison for first-degree rape of a child involving a victim under age 12, and a 25-year sentence for first degree rape involving a child age 12 to 15 or any victim who is developmentally disabled. It also calls for GPS (global positioning satellite) monitoring of sex offenders and makes failure to register as a sex offender a felony.

Rep. Roach has also introduced legislation to augment Jessica's Law Plus. His proposal would turn the state's sex offender "Two-Strikes" law into a "One-Strike" law, so that sex predators convicted of certain sex crimes, including rape of a child, kidnapping and/or murder with sexual motivation, will put these predators away for life where they can no longer hurt children. It would also prohibit sex offenders from living within 500 yards of a school, public library, or licensed business or organization that serves developmentally-disabled persons, vulnerable adults, or children under the age of 16.

Families have become prisoners in their own backyards – now it's time to take back our neighborhoods and get tough on sex offenders.

2006 SESSION PRIORITIES

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

AIM TO GET TOUGH AGAINST AUTO THEFT, IDENTITY THEFT, METH

In October, Rep. Roach held town hall meetings in Bonney Lake and Auburn to discuss the fastest-growing crime in Washington – identity theft. Hundreds of cases continue to crop up throughout the state, yet Washington has only two state law enforcement officers assigned full-time to investigate identity theft crimes. This is woefully inadequate to get to the bottom of this problem.



Both of those officers came to the meeting and told us that identity theft and auto theft often go hand-

in-hand with methamphetamine crimes. Meth users engage in identity and auto theft to support their habits. Meth is a particular problem in our local areas. In 2004, nearly 200 meth labs were discovered in King County – and more than 540 were found in Pierce County.

At the meetings, victims of identity theft told how their financial futures were all but ruined and the struggle it has been to restore their credit.

Rep. Roach is taking the lead this session to introduce a series of bills to fight identity theft, toughen penalties, and increase resources to investigate ID theft crimes. We're also supporting legislation that will strengthen our laws against auto theft and the manufacturing and use of methamphetamine.



Washington State Patrol Identity Theft Unit Detectives Jesse Regalado (left) and Dave Startup are the only two law enforcement officers in the state assigned full-time to investigate ID theft crimes. They assisted Rep. Roach (center) with 31st District Identity Theft Town Hall meetings this past fall.

RETURN CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE BACK TO PATIENTS WHERE IT BELONGS

Expensive mandates and runaway costs are limiting families options for affordable health care coverage and making it harder for doctors and other health care providers to stay in business.

We must give health care back to patients by providing consumers with affordable, customized options from which to choose. We support reforms that give employers flexibility to provide affordable health care coverage for employees and ensure they have a competitive menu of private coverage options from which to choose. Not everyone needs the expensive one-size-fits-all coverage that's required under law. For instance, people shouldn't be forced to pay for acupuncture coverage if they don't need or want it.



We need to get rid of unnecessary government mandates so that it is affordable for small employers to provide health insurance choices to their employees.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR WASHINGTON STUDENTS

This year's 10th-graders, the class of 2008, are the first students required to pass the reading, writing and math sections of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) as a condition of receiving a certificate of achievement at graduation. In 2010, the science section will be added to the list of sections which must also be passed. Schools have known this requirement was coming for several years, but now that the WASL is officially tied to a diploma, we are hearing more concern from parents, students and educators.



The Legislature will be looking at ways to balance our system to measure if students reach the high standards that have been set for them while providing multiple methods for those students to demonstrate they've mastered the material. It's a widely known fact that most students process information differently and we must provide alternative assessments in order to ensure students can demonstrate their success.

Last session the Legislature made great strides by passing legislation to give students up to four opportunities for retakes, as well as alternative means to meet the WASL state standards. Students who take the WASL in March 2006 will have their first chance to retake all or part of the test in August 2006. While this was a good first step, this session the Legislature must continue to refine the way we assess students to assure that students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed into the future.

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WE'RE HERE TO SERVE AS WELL AS REPRESENT YOU!

Please take the time to write or call whenever you have a question, a concern or an idea to share. Hearing from the people in our district is the only way we can be sure to represent your best interests.

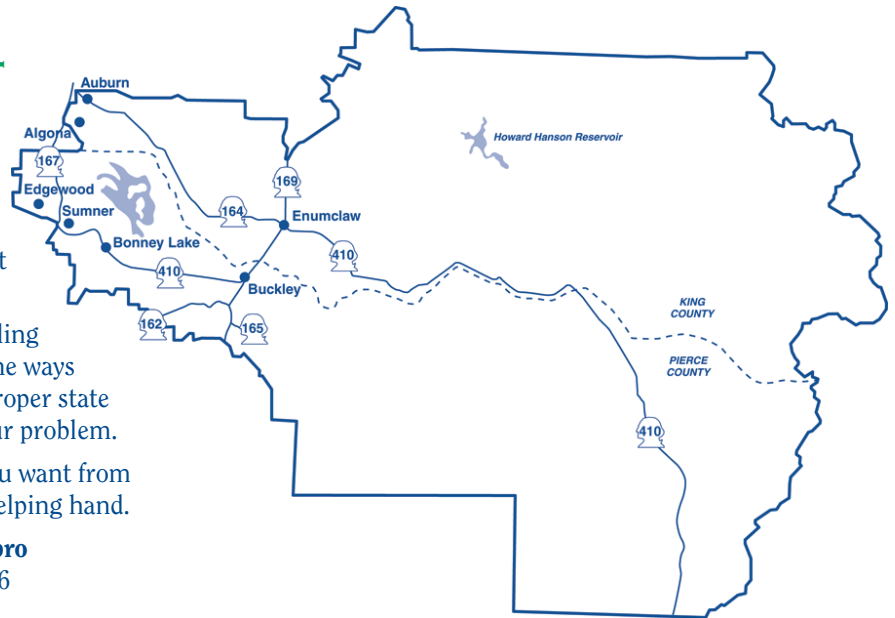
Also let us know if you have a problem in dealing with state government or a state agency. One of the ways we can serve you is by helping direct you to the proper state agency and by attempting to get a response to your problem.

We can't promise to always get the answer you want from government – but we are always ready to lend a helping hand.

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Rep. Jan Shabro
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